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bel was delivered, last evening, by James T. Brady, Esq., in the court room of the Over and Tormer, New City Hall. He defined how far the privileges of the press should be upheld, and condemned the law which punishes the publication of a police report, whilst it permits the dissemination through the press of suits in higher courts equally injurious to character. He spoke of the elected judges, and the probability of their being involuntarily influenced by political prejudices in favor of the party that raised them to office. The counsel, in the course of his lecture, denounced, in a passing observation, the despotism of Louis Napoleon, in regard to the press.

The beautiful lecture of Dr. Kane (late of the Grinnell expedition in the search for Sir John Franklin), on the wonders of the Arctic regions, and the lecture of Professor Antislavery, in this city, on Geology, both of which we publish in this paper, will impart equal pleasure and instruction in their perusal.

The Presidential Agitation.

The question of the next Presidency is rapidly becoming the great disturbance of the day. The excitement and turmoil among the politicians of all parties, particularly in the great central metropolis at Washington, are beginning to develop some of the most amusing and oddest features of human nature. Every public man and statesman of eminence, caste, drinks, moves, travels, smokes, and sleeps, with a view to the nomination election. Both the old parties are alike agitated; and the same agitation is beginning to exist among the anti-slavery politicians of the North and the secessionists and unionists of the South. From every appearance, too, it will be one of the hottest contests that ever took place in this country. It will be a close contest, too, for each party is determined to bring out its whole strength, and previous elections or results will hardly afford any accurate predictions of the future.

The whig party and the whig candidates are very active. Mr. Fillmore, Mr. Webster, and Gen. Scott are stirring in every direction. The visit of Mr. Webster to this city—his great, learned, heavy, tardy, historical, philosophical speech in Niblo's theatre, before the respectable old gentlemen and old ladies of the Historical Society, is undoubtedly a part of the plan to help along the projected nomination that is to be made of him, as a candidate, next month. His public reception at the City Hall is very likely with a view to the same purpose, and his appearance as Chairman at the great Fenimore oratorical festival of last evening, is part of the same chowder dish. All these movements are intended by his political friends to swell the list of subscribers calling the popular meeting to nominate him, and to increase the numbers attending it. They will, undoubtedly, call forth a considerable meeting on the occasion, but we doubt very much whether it will give him the least chance for a nomination in the "Slaughter-house Convention." Even in this city, as well as through the State, the strongest section of the whig party—the abolition section—is as deeply and as eternally opposed to Mr. Webster as it is to Mr. Fillmore. His appearance here has stirred them up in every direction; and we see that the abolition organs of the Seward section of the whig party—the *Times* and *Tribune*—are edging out every other day, with a bitter sneer against Mr. Webster, and a preparatory eulogium of Gen. Scott's patriotism, popularity, and mighty friendliness for the naturalized citizens—Irish, Germans, and all.

But this is not all. The story recently told of General Scott, that he rejected millions offered him by the Mexicans to remain in their country and be their President, is asserted to be correct, and pointed out as a mark of his purity and wonderful patriotism, when he had the chance to enact the character of Aaron Burr. We doubt whether Gen. Scott deserves all the exclusive merits that is claimed for him, even on this score. Gen. Worth was promised prodigiously by the Croles of Cuba, if he would make a desert upon that island. Gen. Quitman received similar promises; but all these General—Scott, Worth, and Quitman—had an instinctive conviction that the American people were too intelligent, and understood their rights too well, to tolerate with impunity any man, however high, turning traitor to his country, or violating the duties he owed to his native land. If any General at the head of an American army had abandoned his country to embrace the proposal of Mexico, he would have been swept, like the dust before the whirlwind, by the indignation of the intelligent people of this country. General Scott, in refusing that proposition, did nothing more than what the simplest private of our army would have done under the same circumstances. Napoleons or Burrs are not indigenous plants in American vegetation.

All these movements of the great men, and the declarations and indications of their organs, only show that the whig party is gradually settling down on the question of the next Presidency; and according to all appearances, General Scott still has the advantage ground, and will have in their convention. In the democratic party, after a higher degree of excitement exists in relation to the next Presidency than in that of the whig, probably arising out of the fact that they have a larger number of candidates, and more internal competition among themselves. Of late, this agitation has increased in Washington, and is increasing all over the country. The different factions, with their different candidates, are getting very warm and very savage towards each other—so much so that we would not be surprised if the nomination of any candidate at Baltimore would almost produce as great a convulsion in the ranks of the democrats as the nomination of Cass did in 1848, when Van Buren and his friends held and defeated their own man.

For some time past, there has been a violent controversy going on in Pennsylvania and other States, between the respective friends of Cass and Buchanan. This controversy has also extended to some parts of the South and West. At one time, the respective friends of Houston and the other candidates were all at loggerheads; but the hero of San Jacinto seems, of late, to have quietly submitted himself to his fate, and is willing, with a glass of cold water, to take his chances at the Baltimore Convention, whatever they may be. Yet all the candidates—who are legion—are not so placid and so easy in their temper. One of the most violent sections of the democratic party, is that body of adventurers, politicians, jobbers, lobby men, loafers, letter writers, and patriots, which calls itself "Young America," and which has hoisted the name of Judge Douglas as its sole and exclusive candidate. This section has been the most violent of late, and is every day coming out fiercer and warmer than ever. They have procured, "by hook or by crook," a number of the leading newspapers, all round the country, not one of which amounts to much in the main. They have got all the loose materials floating around Congress and Washington, and particularly there which are found at bar rooms, grog shops, and taverns. They have also procured a list higher in their aspirations, and have got hold of the old *Democratic Review*—an organ established at Washington, transferred to this city, and published for some years past as a record and lefty organ of the democracy throughout the country. This Review has just come out, in a most violent manner, in favor of Judge Douglas, and against all the other candidates, but particularly against General Butler, of Kentucky, whom it represents as one of the greatest miscreants of a candidate that ever was put forward in this country. What the effect of this terrible exhibition and sudden effervescence may be on the convention, it is difficult to tell. The violent assault on General Butler may help, by reaction, his cause materially, and sink that of Douglas; or it may assist General Cass, or bring back many of the lost democrats to a consideration of Buchanan or Sam Houston. One result, however, is probable, from

the exorbitant appearance of things in the democratic ranks, and that is, a complete alienation among the various factions, so that whatever may be the nomination at Baltimore, it will produce the same effect as the nomination of Cass did in 1848; that is, there will be a general boiling from the nomination of the convention, in consequence of the hatred, antipathies, and anticipations of the different factions that must be disappointed on that occasion.

Such we believe is the most accurate view that can be given, and the most correct deductions that can be made, from the present position of the whig candidates on the one side, and the democratic candidates on the other, in respect to their nominations and chances at the next Presidential election. Everything seems to be conspiring in favor of Gen. Scott as the whig candidate, backed and supported by the abolition whig interest of New York and the North, and concurred in by the journals of that stamp. Webster and Fillmore seem to have the slightest chance, notwithstanding all the little fuss made by the office holders in support of the one, and the learned historical society, or the literary classes, in aid of the other. On the other hand, the violent contentions and personal rivalries among the dozen democratic candidates seem to be gradually producing the same state of internal disorder and alienation which affected that party in 1848, and which, by the boiling that then ensued, produced the election and success of General Taylor. The Democratic Convention, at Baltimore, can only select one candidate for President; that selection will disappoint nearly a dozen, and most of these are men violent, reckless, unprincipled, and determined to be President or nothing. They will, therefore, most likely follow the example set them by Van Buren in 1848, and fall back, either North or South, on the whig party or the free soilers; and thus again the democrats would be defeated by their internal dissensions and individual ambition. The policy of the friends of Judge Douglas, violent, headstrong and vindictive as it seems to be in all their organs and journals, and particularly in the *Democratic Review*, points to such a consummation and to such a misfortune, in the strongest shape possible. In fact, the whig Douglas of this month, now a prominent candidate of the democratic party, may be, before the termination of the year, moving side by side, and operating to produce the same result which the black Douglas, of Rochester, has been endeavoring to do for many months past—that is to say, the policy of the friends of Judge Douglas seems to be the same as that of the friend of Van Buren in 1848; and the former may land in a similar position to that in which we find the Sage of Lindenwald at the present time.

The chances of General Scott and the whigs seem, therefore, to be improving, in consequence of the dissensions among the radicals, rabid, and rapacious democracy. How long will it continue?

THE HOLY ALLIANCE OF TEMPERANCE.—THE ANTAGONISM OF FORCE IN THE FIELD.—In another part of this day's paper will be found the report of the committee appointed by the Legislature to inquire into the Maine Liquor law, together with a bill founded upon and closely resembling the remarkable progeny of Neal Dow. Simultaneously with these operations at Albany, and the active exertions of the Holy Alliance in New York, and throughout the State, the opposite party are marshalling their forces, and will have a grand rally at Metropolitan Hall, to-morrow evening, to "resist oppression and fanaticism." It will be a mass meeting "in favor of the natural and inalienable rights of the citizen—the rights of property, and the protection of the commercial and manufacturing interests of our city." And by the call the people of New York, irrespective of party, are called to join in this counter demonstration—all "who are opposed to the contemplated movement to disfranchise the freemen of this State, destroy their business, ruin the commercial and manufacturing interests of our city, and drive our trade to other States, by the passage of what is called the Maine Liquor law, or on equally ruinous to commercial and manufacturing freedom."

The notice further says:—We call upon all citizens of the community, as well as interested to aid us in putting down this fanatical movement, that will not only produce all the wrongs above alluded to, but will ruin the moral character of temperance itself, and thus increase the very evils it is intended to remedy.

The call is signed by an immensely long list of the merchants of this city; and it appears that these names are but a small part of the whole number that are attached to it. Already over 30,000 names have gone to Albany remonstrating against the Maine law, or any similar law; and some 20,000 are ready to be sent off—making an array of an army of 50,000 who have taken the field on the opposite side. These names include our most respectable citizens, engaged in all the avocations and professions of life—merchants, mechanics, manufacturers, physicians, lawyers, and those employed in various other pursuits. It is stated, too, that a large number of temperance men have joined the movement against the Maine Liquor law, because they regard it as tyrannical, odious, and unconstitutional, and calculated to damage the cause of temperance. The meeting to-morrow evening will be a formidable demonstration.

That the array of a great pitched battle is fairly drawn out, and the conflict will be tremendous between fanaticism, piety, psychology, atheism, place-seeking politicians—the clergy and cold water, on one side, with rum and rowdies on the other, and the office holding, wire-pulling politicians, the German, Irish, and American grocers and grog shops, the wine merchants and wholesale liquor establishments, the brewers and their employes, the farmers, and all who are in favor of moderation and constitutionalism. It will be a second battle of Waterloo, and will be fought with desperation on both sides. The Napoleon of humbug is to be commander in chief of the holy alliance. Whether he will be the Napoleon of humbug, or the Napoleon of the other side, we do not know; but he will be the Napoleon of the other side, and will be fought with desperation on both sides. The Napoleon of humbug is to be commander in chief of the holy alliance. Whether he will be the Napoleon of humbug, or the Napoleon of the other side, we do not know; but he will be the Napoleon of the other side, and will be fought with desperation on both sides.

THE SPIRITUAL KNOCKINGS.—EXTRAORDINARY LECTURE OF A PSYCHOLOGIST.—We publish, in this day's HERALD, one of the most extraordinary productions that have ever seen the light in the shape of a lecture. It is a narrative given by a Rev. Mr. Scott, at Montague Hall, Brooklyn, of his connection with the rappings, and of the wanderings of himself and eleven other spirits, from Auburn, in this State, to the State of Ohio, and from thence to Virginia, where they resided at last in a mountain, at a place called Mountain Cove, where, by the direction of the spirits, they purchased a farm; and on that farm the spirits made the most wonderful revelations to them. The reverend gentleman took up his abode there, till he was urged by the spirits to come back to New York and Brooklyn, from which he originally set out on this mysterious mission. No doubt a wild mountain, though pleasant in summer, is not so very agreeable during such a hard winter as this. The most remarkable thing connected with the delusion is, that the lecturer says these manifestations are but the prelude to the grand drama of the coming of Jesus Christ. Dr. Scott says that he would have suspected himself of insanity if, a short time ago, he thought that he would ever stand up and deliver such a lecture as that which we publish to-day; and we have no doubt that many of our readers will regard him as stark mad now, though it strikes us there is "method in his madness." He states that there were several clergymen and editors engaged in this business last year, among whom was undoubtedly Horace Greeley, and we have heard, Rev. Dr. Hawks. It seems that similar lectures are given all over the city, and that the subject is warmly discussed, even in the bar rooms.

This is a most ingenious species of amusement, and no doubt it will draw as well as any other—perhaps better. Knocking will probably turn out,

as the excitement advances, to be the most prosperous business in the city; and doctors, like Dr. Scott, will abandon their calling, and lawyers will abandon their dusty folios and briefs, and cobblers will throw away their lasts, and tailor their lap-boards and gooses, and set themselves up in the new vocation. A new ism and a new sect are established, and there is a great demand for ministers. The field is vast—the harvest is great, but the laborers are comparatively few. The good time, however, is coming, when we shall have exponents, and lecturers, and preachers of the rappings in vast numbers, until competition will make the business cease to pay, and then we shall have another new ism.

QUEER FINANCIAL CASES.—WINN & HAWKINS, PIN WHITE, and PINNEY & GOLD DUST.—During the last ten days, the newspapers have been full of queer financial developments, giving an account of a famous gold dust operator, commonly called Pin White, who has vanished with an enormous quantity of the stuff in his breeches pocket, much to the consternation of those he has left behind him, and of less to the consternation of financial speculators in Wall street. We have given the reports of each information in the case as could be obtained at the police office; but the whole of it does not amount to much. At this moment, the entire affair is buried in mystery, and there is great confusion and bungling somewhere or other. The principal difficulty is the absence of Pin White himself, who, it is stated, carried away an immense sum, variously estimated—by some at \$50,000, by some at \$100,000, and by others as high even as \$400,000. Perhaps, by striking a mean between the extremes, we might be near the true amount. There are odd stories circulated about the matter, intended to explain the mystery; but nothing seems to be satisfactory, and the police are as much at fault as anybody else. But every person wants to know where is Pin White, for whom a reward of \$500 has been offered. "Great reward for Pin White"—where is Pin White? is asked by every man who passes through the street, and echoes answers, "Where?"

We have set several of our reporters at work in this business, who probably will be able, as soon as all the snow and frost are completely thawed out, to find Pin White, and set him at work with the winter, with all the gold dust perhaps thawed out of his pocket at the same time.

There is a curious mystery about this business. It seems that during the last two or three years a very singular confederacy of Christians and He-brews—all men of honor and mark—has existed in this city, whose business it was to jump on board of every newly arrived steamer from the land of gold, catch hold of the Californians just landing with the dust, and purchase it all from them, at such prices as they chose to give, and with such weights as they thought proper to furnish. During the last two years, probably forty millions of gold dust have been purchased by these operators, in this way, and sent to the Mint, and perhaps four millions of dollars or more have been realized in shavings, in short weights, and profits made by the confederacy. At first, these operators, consisting of ten or fifteen persons, were rivals to each other; but as nothing handsome could be made by rivalry and competition, they all combined, each undertaking to do the whole business in turn, while his confederates stood behind the scenes and pocketed their share of the profits. In these operations Pin White was a sort of little Napoleon—he managed them with consummate skill—brushed up his black whiskers—looked innocent as "a sucking dove," and walked into the Californians most effectually. At the proper time, he disappeared, with a large portion of the money in his pockets, whilst not one of the parties concerned could bring an action in law against him, on account of the equivocal mode of doing the business among themselves.

This is the view given of the mystery—a sort of financial mystery—in certain organs in Wall street, where all the depths of financial philosophy are always sounded and always known. It is supposed, therefore, that the police, and the officers of law, and the operators, are all at fault, and that Pin White is still in this city, snugly ensconced and awaiting the first approach of spring, when he will start with \$200,000 or \$300,000 in his pocket, and make the grand tour of Europe, shake hands with Louis Napoleon, and get absolution from the Pope. We doubt whether the police could catch him, if they offered a reward of \$5,000, instead of \$200. We shall see.

THE TREATY OF GUATEMALA AND RAILWAY.—Some of the Washington correspondents state that very important intelligence may soon be expected from Mexico, embracing the confirmation of the famous Tehuantepec treaty, which guaranteed the Garay charter to the American company that purchased it from its original proprietor.

It will be recollected that on former occasions, all our accounts from Mexico indicated that there was very little chance of this treaty being ever sanctioned by the present Mexican government. The whole subject, it seems, has been for some time thrown into a very great state of confusion and doubt mixed up with various conflicting statements and matters, out of which it is very difficult to gather the exact truth or facts of the business. Some time ago we were startled with the intelligence from Washington, of Captain Levy, formerly of the United States naval service, being arrested under an indictment for violating an old law of Congress, that law being forcibly made to apply to the Garay treaty and Tehuantepec grant. It seems that Levy claims also to have a grant for the construction of a railroad across the Tehuantepec Isthmus, and that his charter requires nothing but the signature of the President to establish its legality and give value to the instrument. This, of course, comes in conflict with the Garay grant, and the whole business is now so confused and mixed up together, that it will require a great deal of research, and much additional intelligence from Mexico, before it will be possible to ascertain how either of the grants stands, or if any of them has any chance of being carried out by the Mexican government.

Upon this subject, the Tehuantepec Company have published two very curious works, under the authority of Major Barnard, of the U. S. Engineers, and Mr. J. Williams, also an engineer, giving a full account of the isthmus of Tehuantepec, and illustrated with numerous maps and engravings of the whole line of railroad contemplated by the Garay Company. This work contains much information on the subject. Captain Levy, in like manner, on his side, also publishes a variety of articles on the same subject, claiming a grant of the same right; but his line of railroad, it appears, is very different from that of the Garay reconnaissance. Captain Levy has also presented, or is about to present, to Congress a memorial bringing up this subject to the notice of that body, and giving a full account of his movements in relation to the grant, both in this country and in Mexico, in opposition to the Garay Company, and in defence of himself against the recent indictment and prosecution begun by our government at Washington.

We believe that, one of these days, some further light will be thrown on this mixed and involved subject of conflicting grants, conflicting rights and projected treaties. At present, there is much darkness, doubt and confusion on the whole subject, and on all the grants.

Our last accounts from Mexico were to the 31st of January, but we found nothing in the Mexican journals on the Tehuantepec subject. Private letters received here state, however, as we learn, that the Treaty had been finally rejected by the Mexican Congress and Executive; but we have seen no positive confirmation of the subject, and it remains still as much in doubt as ever.

MONEY FOR HENRY FISHER.—"A stranger" has sent us five dollars, and "a sailor" one dollar, for Henry Fisher. We now have seven dollars for him. Will he call for it?

THE FIRST NEW YORK ABOLITION NEWSPAPER.—The *Journal of Commerce* edgers out a sort of a journal that it advocated anti-slavery notions on its first establishment. We shall soon settle this point, by republishing, from its columns, strong anti-slavery extracts during the first years of its existence. One correction it has made, viz., that the establishment of the *Journal* preceded the establishment of the first anti-slavery society by about a year. This is true; but both were established by the same set of men, of whom the Tappans were the leaders. Both sprung from the same source and the same minds, and were intended to aid and advocate the same anti-slavery projects.

MOVEMENTS OF G. KINKEL.—Gottfried Kinkel, the great German patriot, who for the last two days, has been residing at the Astor House, left the city yesterday morning, for Washington, on board the Baltic. We understand he will pay a flying visit to several cities in the South, where he will endeavor to excite the sympathy and generosity of the warm-hearted Southerners for the cause of the German land. He will then return to New York, take a public farewell of his friends here, and immediately embark for the European continent.

PUNNY N. WEAVER WAR.—The *Pick* and the *Picayune*, two flashy weekly journals, are at war, both in their columns and in the police office. The *Pick* is the new one started by Joe Scoville—the *Picayune* is the old one, owned by two or three